

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

TV.
SPORTS

**HULK HOGAN AT
THE CROSSROADS:
WRESTLING OR
HOLLYWOOD?**

PAUL ORNDORFF:
THE ONLY MAN
WHO CAN SAVE
JIMMY SNUKA FROM
LOU ALBANO

DAVID VON ERICH:
"I'D RATHER QUIT
WRESTLING THAN
BE DORY FUNK JR.'S
PUPPET"

**Jerry Lawler vs.
Andy Kaufman—
Part II**
THE FEUD
EXPLODES ON
NETWORK TV

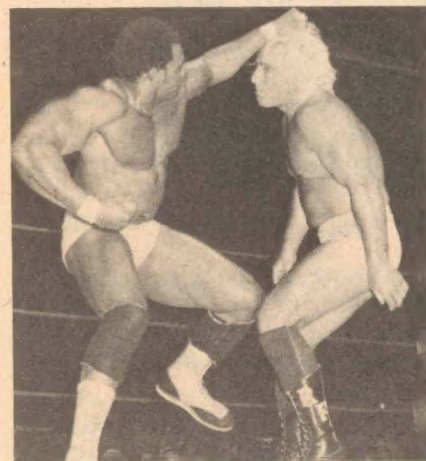




PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED



Page 26: Hulk At The Crossroads



Page 30: Reed Crowns The Champ

Cover Photo By Bill Apter

Centerfold By Stu Saks

**Next Issue On Sale
October 26**

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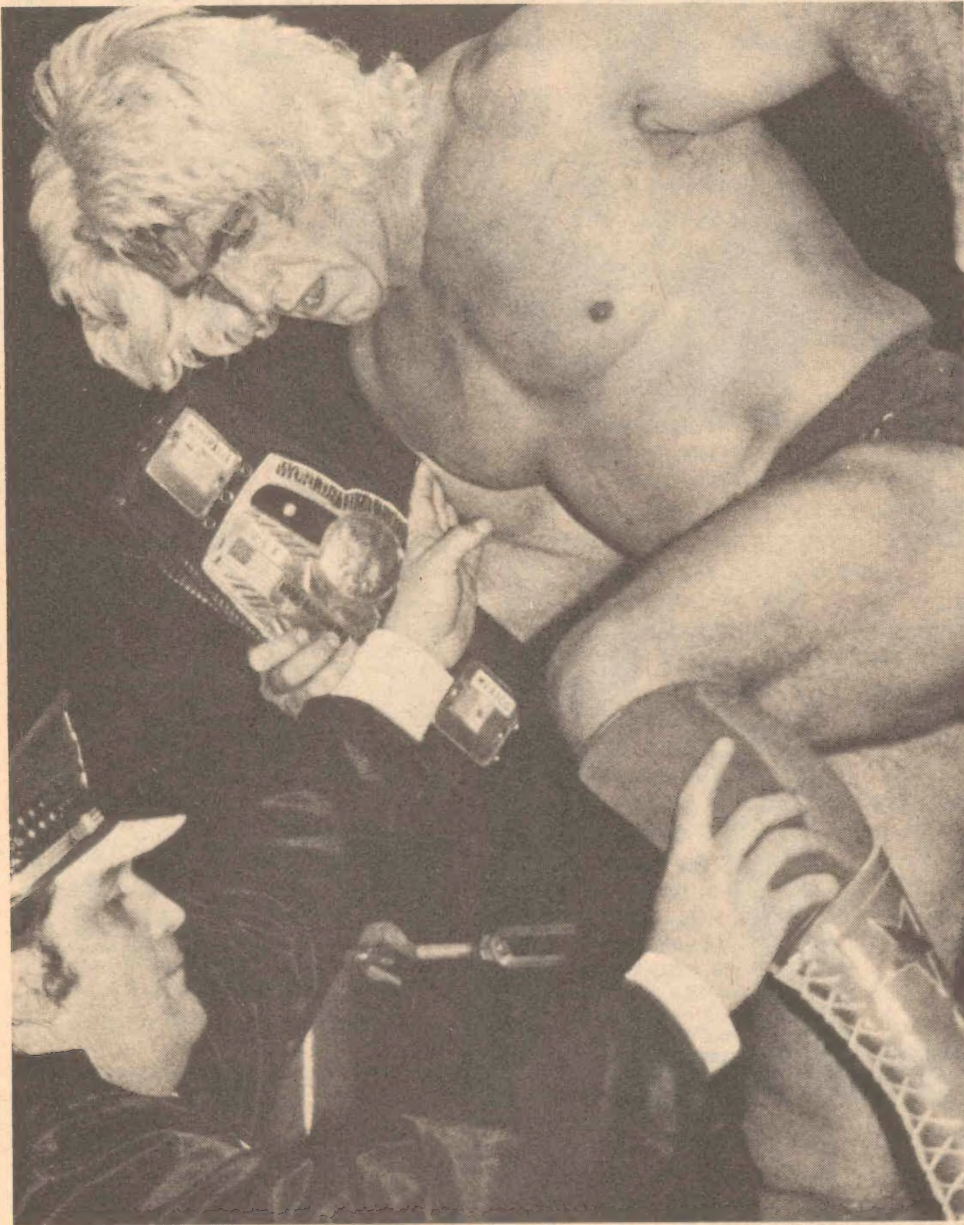
FALLS BETWEEN FALLS

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welcomes readers' comments on
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Send your letters to:

BETWEEN FALLS

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Rockville Centre, NY 11571



Ric Flair, clutching his NWA championship belt with his remaining strength, is helped out of the ring after another successful defense.

CHAMPIONSHIP SUPPORT

I would like to congratulate *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* on their superb article in the October 1982 issue ("Ric Flair's Startling Confession: 'I Hate Being Champion!'"). Ric Flair has always been my favorite wrestler, and he

always will be. According to the article, Ric is under a great deal of stress. I want him to know that all of us here in Fayetteville are behind him 100 percent. We love you Ric!

AMY WILLIS
Fayetteville, NC

CONGRATULATIONS, LIZ

I was so excited and impressed to see you now as the writer for "On Assignment" for *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, and I look forward to reading many, many excellent stories.

I have recently become a wrestling fan from watching the matches on cable television, and I subscribe to *PWI* because I want to read the best.

I'm so proud of you. Do your best—we're all behind you!

KAREN RIPPLE
Sturgis, MI

WRESTLING MARATHON

In the October issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, I read Stu Saks' "Dressing Room Confidential." In it he told of the wrestling "chuckwagon" that the "Big Apple" fans had to choose from. I decided to try a TV wrestling marathon of my own.

It was a real experience. My girlfriend was upset over the fact that I cancelled our date, so I invited her to join me.

Boy, what a delicious variety Omaha cable-TV has to offer! From Friday until Sunday we saw 10 different wrestling shows.

Here they are in order from start to finish: *Metro High School Wrestling*, *AWA All-Star Wrestling*, *L.A. Wrestling*, *Georgia Championship Wrestling*, *WWF Championship Wrestling*, *AWA All-Star Wrestling II*, *KSHB Kansas City Wrestling*, *The Best of Georgia Championship Wrestling*,

(Continued on page 52)

RINGSIDE

With Bill Apter

SUPERSTAR BILLY GRAHAM'S return to the WWF has been impressive, to say the very least. The man is devastating. Graham now has a vast knowledge of the martial arts, which perfectly complements his immense raw strength. He has undergone extensive training for the express purpose of regaining the WWF crown he lost to Bob Backlund in February 1978.

Montreal fans are still buzzing about the wild brawl between Abdullah the Butcher and Canadian International champion Dino Bravo. The battle was so

heated, three referees could not stop the bloody combatants from nearly killing each other. Even police officers were unable to break up the melee. Finally, the two were separated by 15 other wrestlers! The aftermath: Abdullah is indefinitely suspended from wrestling in Montreal and Bravo has been stripped of the title for his very uncharacteristic behavior.

Since Roddy Piper rescued a group of children from a knife-wielding maniac, sustaining a chest wound in the process (*see King's Court, page 10*), he has undergone

a serious change. When Piper was offered a contract by manager Sir Oliver Humperdink, he tore the document up and threw it in Humperdink's face. Piper also refused to help tag team partner Ric Flair perform illegal double-teaming maneuvers against Jack Brisco and Wahoo McDaniel. The writing is on the wall. Could it be that Piper now wishes to once again hear the cheers rather than the jeers of fans?

Tennessee grappler Roy Rogers has moved his base of operation to Atlanta where it has been revealed
(Continued on page 55)



After his wild melee with Abdullah the Butcher (above), Dino Bravo (left) was stripped of his Canadian International belt for actions unbecoming a champion.

KING'S COURT

By Peter King

FOR YEARS, we have been receiving letters from fans in the Pacific Northwest that always seem to begin the same way: *Dear Sirs—Why do you people hate Roddy Piper so much?*

The letters would then go on to describe Piper as a man of

character and honor. Admittedly, we would ignore the letters, because we felt we knew Roddy Piper better than any fan.

Of course, we realized that Piper had wrestled as a fan favorite during his stay in the Northwest. But we ignored that too,

considering it more of a matchmaking situation than anything else. You see, we thought we knew the *real* Roddy Piper.

I recently looked back over some of the stories and columns we have written on Piper. The adjectives we used to describe him are not flattering. We called him a loudmouth, we called him a troublemaker, we called him cruel and unfeeling. We even called him a coward.

Rod Piper is no coward.

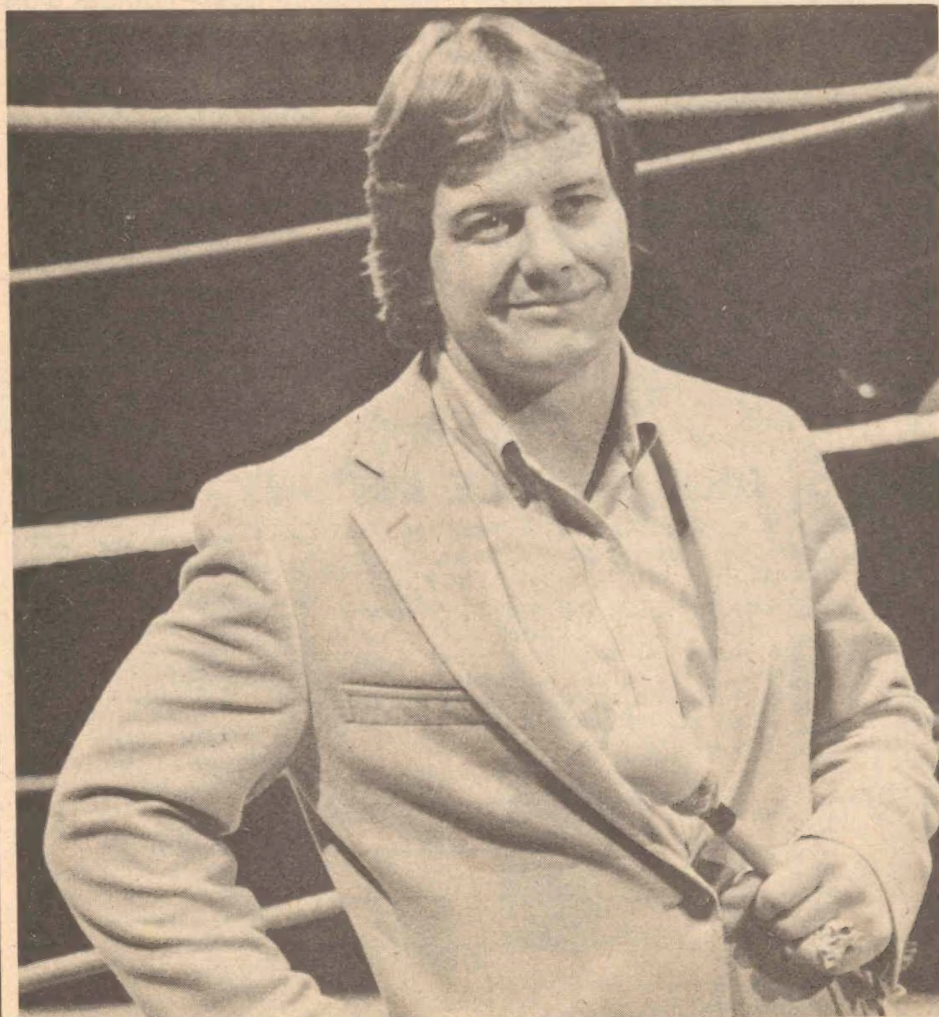
In early August, in Raleigh, North Carolina, Roddy Piper was responsible for one of the bravest acts a man can perform. He put his life in jeopardy to save another human being. In fact, his bravery was responsible for saving the lives of many human beings. It is a story you may have already read in the newspapers or seen on television. But I think it deserves to be recounted here.

Piper was walking down a crowded Raleigh street when he heard cries for help in a parking lot. Running to see if he could help, Piper saw a berserk man with a knife terrorizing a group of children. What would you have done in a situation like this? Most of us would probably either stand there transfixed by fear or run to get a policeman. Either way, it might mean the wounding or death of one of the children. Piper charged at the knife-wielding man without a thought about his own safety. He was able to disarm the madman, but not until after Piper had sustained a knife wound in the chest.

Soon, the man was taken away and the children were safe again. Piper did not even wait around to be thanked. In his own mind he had done what he had to do. He had done the right thing, and Rod Piper feels it is wrong to accept thanks for doing what should be done.

But the story does not end here. Piper refused to take any credit for

(Continued on page 54)



A—ON— ASSIGNMENT

BY LIZ HUNTER

EVERY ONCE IN a while I get presents in the mail. Sometimes they're from wrestlers, sometimes from fans, and sometimes I can't tell *who* they're from.

The last-named situation was the case recently when a large manila envelope arrived at the offices of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* with my name on the front and no postmark.

you see on this page.

I'd like to describe my thoughts at that moment, but this is a family publication.

Despite the 25-hour days, there are some things that merit immediate attention. This, obviously, was one of them. I dropped everything I was doing and telephoned Jerry Brisco.

"Liz, how're you doing?" asked Jerry when he answered

day's mail.

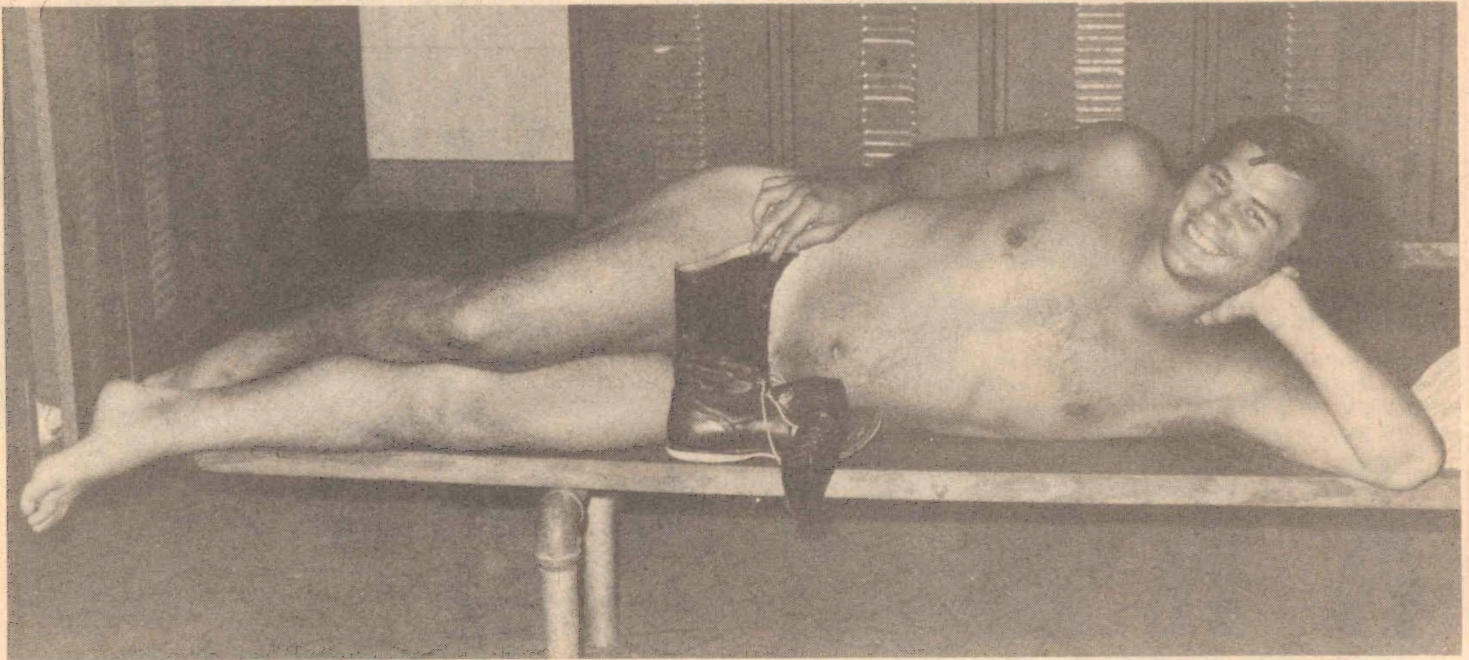
"I had that photo taken several years ago," Jerry explained. "It was sort of a joke at the time..."

"Well, you do look younger," I admitted, "but I don't see what the joke could have been."

"A joke, in a way, but it was also sort of an audition."

An audition for what? Male burlesque?

"There was a time not too long



It's a good thing wrestlers wear boots and not sneakers.

"Another manuscript," I thought. These show up occasionally, unsolicited articles on various wrestlers. More often than not, I don't have time to read them, much less send a reply to the person who wrote the piece. Journalism is a 25-hour-a-day job, and you can only handle so many projects at once.

But when I opened up the envelope, I found the photo that

the phone. "Long time no see!"

"Wish I could say the same," I replied.

"I don't understand," said Jerry, understandably puzzled by my reply.

I explained what had arrived in the mail that morning, and a long, hearty laugh found its way to my ear. Jerry was neither surprised nor shocked to learn what I had discovered in the

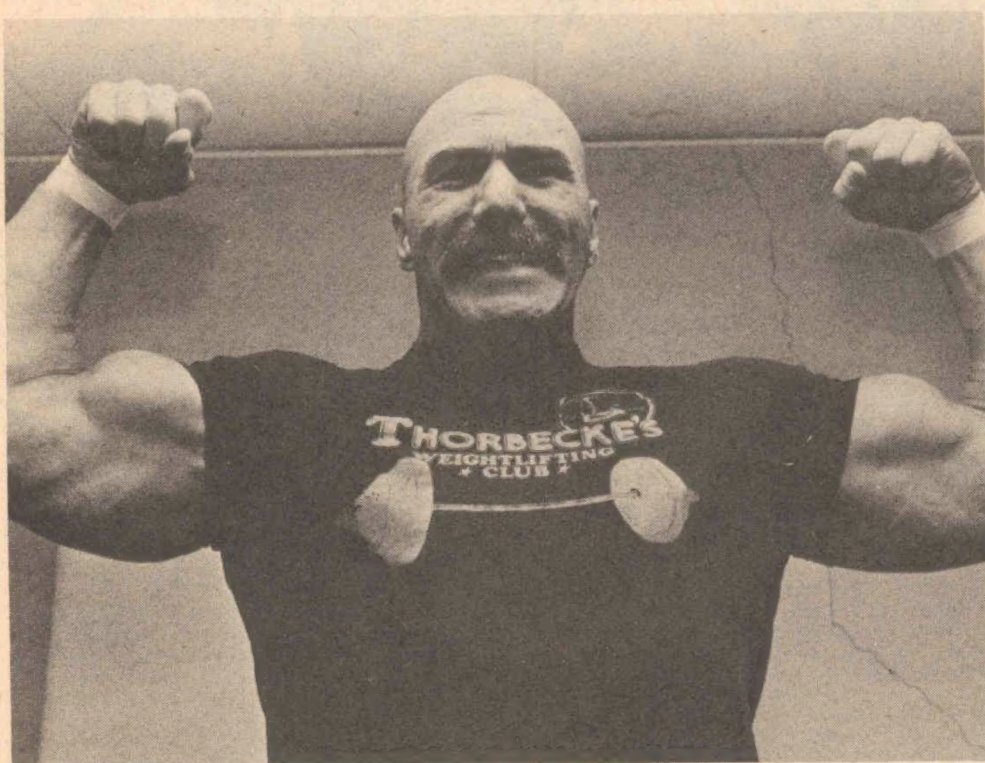
ago," Jerry said, "when I really wanted to do some modeling. This was sort of my screen test, you might say. Some friends of mind, female friends, said that I would look great in a *Playgirl* centerfold, so I had that photo taken."

I couldn't argue with Jerry there, he *would* look great in a centerfold photo spread. And

(Continued on page 56)

WFOCUS

With CRAIG PETERS



SUPERSTAR GRAHAM

BACKLUND: SOON TO BE A CONTENDER?

Bob Backlund has been through a lot lately. The toughest title challenges of his entire championship reign

were painfully, but successfully dealt with as Backlund reaffirmed his WWF title against Jimmy Superfly Snuka.

Backlund has had some breathing time as he defended his belt against Cowboy Bob Orton and Playboy Buddy Rose; difficult challengers, yes, but hardly equal to Snuka. Neither man has succeeded in sending Backlund out on a stretcher.

In the near future, however, Backlund will have to contend with none other than Superstar Billy Graham. The man who Backlund defeated to gain the title 4½ years ago has returned to the WWF with three goals in mind: Backlund, the title, and revenge.

Superstar Graham's challenge to Backlund may well make Snuka's quest for the belt seem easy by comparison.

RODDY PIPER: JACKASS OF THE MONTH

Bob Armstrong has appeared on the nationally televised *Georgia Championship Wrestling* and declared Roddy Piper "Jackass of the Month."

"I don't know a nicer guy who deserves this award more," said Armstrong in a telephone inter-

view. "Piper has done more to make a jackass out of himself on national television than any other person I know of in the entire sport of wrestling.

"The only problem we had with this award was that we weren't able to declare Piper

'Jackass of the Year,'" Armstrong continued, "but when December rolls around I'm confident he'll be the runaway favorite for that award, too!"

Piper was unavailable for comment.

(Continued on page 58)

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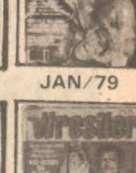
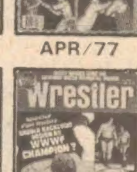
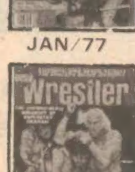
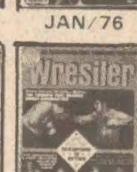
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DRESSING CONFIDENTIAL ROOM

By Stu Saks



The anticipated bloodbath between Pedro Morales and Bruno Sammartino never came to pass. Pedro and Bruno wrestled in complete scientific fashion for 76 minutes.

BRUNO SAMMARTINO and Pedro Morales glared into each other's eyes with a contempt they had never shown for any other opponent. Referee Dick Kroll recited the instructions, but neither man seemed to listen. Their very lives had been consumed by a hatred that should never have existed in the first place.

A month earlier, Bruno Sammartino and Pedro Morales were the closest of friends. For 10 years they were the closest of friends. Bruno was the first in the ring at Madison Square Garden to congratulate Pedro after he won the WWF belt from Ivan Koloff 19 months earlier. Bruno, who had worn that same belt for 7½ years before being defeated by Koloff, was only too proud to wrap the belt around the waist of the new king.

Bruno and Pedro chose to carry their friendship one step further when they elected to challenge the insidious tag team champions, Professor Toru Tanaka and Mr. Fuji. Both now admit that was the worst mistake of their lives. But one gets such a clear image of things looking into the past. One doesn't see so clearly when one's eyes are filled with salt. In the blindness inflicted by Tanaka and Fuji, the friendship between

(Continued on page 62)

If you wish to contribute to Shocket's mailbag, send your letters to:

TOP ROPE
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Rockville Centre, N.Y.
11571

OFF THE O ROPE

By Dan Shocket

ANNOUNCING THE FIRST annual "Why Tommy Rich is Wormslime" contest. Entries must be 25 words or less and must begin "Tommy Rich is wormslime because..." The winner of the contest will have the pleasure of knowing the most foolish fans in history, the rooters for Tommy Rich, will be enraged past all understanding.

And now, onto this month's correspondence.

Dear Mr. Shocket,

What really made me mad was your answer to the "Crowd from Crowley, Louisiana." People here do not do our reading in an outhouse. Personally, I have never seen one.

You, on the other hand, have had vast experience in the usage of said outhouse, I'm sure.

Say what you want about wrestlers which is, if I am not mistaken, your job. One thing I am sure of—we don't need or want any Yankee from New York putting down our great state. As the saying goes, if you haven't tried it, don't knock it. And please don't bother to try it. You might lose



You have to give credit to Tommy Rich for being able to maintain any hold on an opponent, as slimy as he is. "Tommy Rich is wormslime because..." You fill in the rest.

yourself in the beauty of one of Louisiana's fine outhouses.

SUSAN ANTHONY
Louisiana born and
damn proud of it!

Dear Ms. Anthony:

I have not only been to Louisiana, I have relatives living very well in Baton Rouge. As a man who finds oysters, cray-

fish, catfish, and gumbo culinary treats, I'm not about to say the state deserves to be insulted, as Kansas deserves to be insulted. The state is a delight to visit. And as your letter and others proved, Louisianans seem to have a very strong need to declare they have indoor plumbing. I send the state my congratulations.

Mr. Shocket:

Where do you *Get Off* calling Tommy Rich a wimpcryer! And what gives you the right to call Louisianans ill-mannered boors? You make me feel about as good as hearing Roddy Piper opening his stupid mouth.

As a matter of fact, all you are is a piece of *trash* and a *liar*! And if I ever hear you calling Michael Hayes anything, boy, you're going to wish you never heard my name.

KIM ROSS

Clarksville, TN

Ms. Ross:

It's a pleasure hearing from a woman of your delicate sensibility and cultured prose. The same right that makes it my responsibility to yell "Fire!" if a building is aflame makes it mandatory that I call the sniveling blob of excuses, Tommy Rich, "Wimpcryer." And rest assured, I already wish I never heard your name.

Dear Shocket,

How dare you tell Bob Backlund to take another job? He is the greatest WWF champion ever. He has defended his title against the meanest and toughest wrestlers in the world.

Why don't you talk about the AWA coward, Nick Bockwinkel? I don't see him defending his title in steel cages, Texas Death Matches or Lumberjack Matches. If Hulk Hogan could get the bum in any one of the above matches, Bockwinkel could kiss his title and his life goodbye.

I think your excuse for Nick Bockwinkel's cowardice will be interesting.

GLENN BRYANT
Little Rock, AK

Dear Bryant,

Nothing I could say could compare with your analysis of Backlund and Bockwinkel. Backlund's genius is to hide his



Bob Backlund acknowledges the cheers of the ignorant masses after a Steel Cage Match victory at Madison Square Garden. A real champion wrestles man to man, without the flash of any kind of specialty match.

incompetence behind the flashiness of Steel Cage Matches. Due to bribes and protection by the commissions, Backlund is in no danger of losing his title. As for Bockwinkel's cowardice, he has faced the best wrestlers for the

past 15 years and beaten them all. If that's cowardice, then wrestling needs many more like him.

Dear Dan,

I'm just writing to give you some info that I'm sure you will love. Ted DiBiase, former wormslime, has turned rulebreaker here in the Mid-South. He has turned on his friends and fans including starting a surprising feud with his former best friend, Junkyard Dog.

I'm sure this will greatly influence your previous opinion of Ted since you obviously have great respect for rulebreakers and cheats.

LISA C. HUSHFIELD
New Orleans, LA



Ted DiBiase, with a new style and without his former friends, is one confused young man.

Dear Lisa,

After visiting DiBiase recently, I only have pity for the man. He doesn't seem happy in his choice and appears lost. Even though I suspect he will soon go back to being a fan favorite, only a sadist would take any pleasure at his present unhappiness. □

Every issue, three reporters from PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED will participate in an incisive press conference with a top wrestling star. The questions will be demanding. And the answers will reveal the innermost thoughts of the giants of the sport

PRESS CONFERENCE

LOU ALBANO

(Captain Lou Albano, also known as "The Guiding Light," has managed more championship tag teams than any other man. Indeed, Albano and the WWF tag team belts have become virtually synonymous over the years. His latest pair of champion, Mr. Fuji and Mr. Saito, recently reaffirmed their right to the belts in the face of a challenge from Jules and Chief Jay Strongbow . . . but not without creating a great deal of controversy in the process. Editors Craig Peters, Stu Saks, and Bill Apter spoke with Albano recently about the controversy surrounding Fuji and Saito.)



"Everybody is jealous of the Captain's success, everyone is jealous of the success of men like Fuji and Saito, and everyone would like to see us run out of wrestling because of it."



STU SAKS: Captain, I'd like to say congratulations to you for guiding the team of Mr. Fuji and Mr. Saito to another tag team championship, but I just can't. I find that the way you won the title back was a complete disgrace.

CAPTAIN LOU ALBANO: What are you talking about? Mr. Fuji and Mr. Saito are consummate wrestlers, and they are champions, and they deserve to be wearing the belts that they won fair and square.

BILL APTER: That's just it, the match wasn't fair. You came in and sneak attacked the Strongbows while their backs were turned.

ALBANO: No, I didn't, what are you talking about?

APTER: Look, in the third and deciding fall, it was *you* who hit Jay from behind and dragged



Though Mr. Fuji appears to be in total command as he whips Chief Jay Strongbow into the ropes, the Chief would surprise Fuji with a tomahawk chop and cover him for the pin. Unnoticed by the referee, however, Fuji's foot was draped across the bottom rope when the count was made, thus touching off a huge controversy over the rightful owners of the WWF tag team belts.

Saito on top of him to make it look like Saito pinned Jay for the win.

ALBANO: You're crazy, Apter, it never happened like that. Everybody is jealous of the Captain's success, everyone is jealous of the success of men like Fuji and Saito, and everyone would like to see us run out of wrestling because of it. But let me tell you, when Fuji and Saito buckle those belts around their waists, they are the undisputed champions of the WWF.

CRAIG PETERS: I don't even want to discuss the fact that you call them "undisputed" champions, because there is more controversy surrounding them than anyone else in wrestling today . . .

ALBANO: All because of jealousy, pure jealousy at their unmatched skill and success in the ring.

(Continued on page 64)

HULK HOGAN WRESTLING OR

THE THUNDERING SOUNDS of applause still being heard in movie theaters across the world are music to Hulk Hogan's ears, a deafening roar of approval for the popular wrestler's acting debut in the box-office blockbuster *Rocky III*. But these same sounds are forcing Hogan to make a decision which could change his life. Should he continue his career in wrestling, one that promises athletic immortality, or should he leave wrestling and go on to Hollywood?

He can't do both.

To be a champion in professional wrestling one must give his all—physically and mentally—to the cause. And being a movie star takes an equal amount of dedication. The countless casting sessions, rehearsals, personal appearances, and wild all-night parties take their toll on a person's body. Nobody can succeed in both, not even a 6'8", 330-pound blond mass of rock whose ego allows him to think he can do anything.

"There's no decision to be made," Hogan insists. "I'll admit most men can't do what I'm doing, but I'm not like most men. I've always dreamed of winning the AWA belt and now that the dream is within my grasp, I want it more than ever. But my phone never stops ringing. The post office needs a separate truck just to deliver my mail. It's those talent scouts from Hollywood and the movie producers. There's never been anything like Hulkmania."

Already Hogan has sacrificed a large amount of training time to his second career. The Hulk has made numerous personal appearances, drawing huge, enthusiastic crowds (comprised mostly of adoring female fans) and recently, he appeared on *The Tonight Show With Johnny Carson*. Hogan's ability to draw a



Paying no attention to the fallen referee or his own facial wounds, Hulk Hogan focuses in on AWA champion Nick Bockwinkel (above). With such attractive alternatives to the mat wars (right), how long can the Hulk resist Hollywood?

AT THE CROSSROADS: HOLLYWOOD?

Last issue we brought you the story about Hulkmania which is sweeping the country. Now, the inevitable question must be confronted by Hogan: Should he devote his energies to the wrestling ring or the silver screen? His answer will determine the course of the rest of his career





Hogan established himself as a potential Hollywood superstar when he appeared in Sylvester Stallone's "Rocky III" (above). Utilizing his massive arm and chest muscles, Hogan powers his way out of a full-nelson (left).

crowd, inside or outside the ring, is unquestioned. A tug of war between promoters and talent scouts is well underway. Ultimately, though, if there is a decision to be made, Hogan's going to have to make it.

"He has all the makings of a great star," praised Hollywood agent Alan Janz. "He's a natural actor, and, very obviously, has a body and face which will send the women rushing to see his films. He'll be a millionaire after his first film and even more of a household name than he is now. I don't understand why he's waiting to make the move. What could be holding him back?"

(Continued on page 50)

WHAT THEY ARE SAYING

Every month, our reporters will compile wrestlers' most revealing quotes. Often catching the grapplers with their guards down, our reporters will work endlessly in obtaining interesting quotes on a variety of subjects

CAPTAIN LOU ALBANO

"How can you ignore the great genius of the Captain, who brings in the best wrestlers in the world today? I've got Superfly Snuka, the man who sent Backlund out on a stretcher for the first time in his feeble title reign, and I've got the tag team champs Mr. Fuji and Mr. Saito, and now the whole WWF better watch out for my latest triumph, Mighty Joe Thunder!"



VERNE GAGNE

"I've said many times, and in many publications, if Mad Dog Vachon needs me to help him in his campaign against Crusher Blackwell and Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie, I will come out of retirement and give him a hand. I owe him a favor from way back, and this would be the only reason I would come out of retirement, but it will be for one match and one match only."



MASKED SUPERSTAR

"I'm sick and tired of people talking me down, saying that the Superstar is not worth the fabric that they put into his mask. Well let me tell you, I'll make a laughingstock out of the Junkyard Dog when he comes into my territory, and I'll expose Mr. Wrestling II for the feeble wrestler that he is anytime he wants to wrestle me. I am the Superstar, and I rule Georgia. Period."



BARRY WINDHAM

"I don't want anything to do with Blackjack Mulligan. I want my career to be judged on its own merits, not on the fact that I have a long association with the Mulligan name. That is the main reason I changed my name back to Barry Windham. I'm not too crazy about the way my father is wrestling in the WWF, but that's his business."



(Continued on page 51)

BUTCH REED: THE UNCROWNED NWA CHAMPION

Butch Reed believes he should be NWA champion. He even won a title match but didn't win the title. Now he makes a special vow that will mean destruction for either himself or NWA champ Ric Flair!

Photos By Bill Otten



HIS SHOULDERS PINNED to the canvas, NWA champion Ric Flair struggled to escape the powerful hold of Butch Reed. The champ squirmed, twisted and turned, but could not break free. After three incredible seconds, the match was over. Reed leaped in the air, elated at his victory and championship.

It didn't take Reed long to discover that all he had was a victory. The pin took place in a five-minute extension granted the wrestlers after the 30-minute time limit had officially expired. Reed hadn't won in regulation time. As Flair knew, a title can't change hands during an extension. Flair knows all the angles.

When hearing that he'd won the battle and lost the war, Reed was outraged. He swore that the NWA belt had been stolen from him.

"I didn't ask for the extension," Reed pointed out, "Flair did. He engineered the entire thing. All I did was accept his challenge. I won the match fair and square. If I win a title match, I should win the title.

"I don't care what some clown in the NWA office decided before I was born. That's no rule a wrestler would have written. A match is a match all the way through. Today, Flair is walking around with my belt because of a technicality.

"Look, I hate to sound like I'm whining. It's just that I've never been so hurt in my life. I've dreamt of winning the NWA title since I was a kid. My dream came true, only to have some pencil pusher in an office tell me it is still only a dream. I feel like I've been punched in the gut by a battering ram.

"What's more, this kind of thing cheapens all wrestling. When a smoothie like Flair can use the rulebook to gain some unfair advantage over an opponent, it shows that wrestling isn't really decided by what happens in the ring. A man can use the rulebook to destroy the spirit of the sport.

(Continued on page 66)



Butch Reed is pushed to his potential when he is in the ring against the best the sport has to offer. He always wrestles spectacularly against champions and ex-champions, as he demonstrates in feats of strength against (from top to bottom) Harley Race, Ric Flair, and Dory Funk Jr.

By Stu Saks



PAUL ORNDORFF EASED himself into the lounge chair and heaved a sigh of relaxation. It was clear that his bones and muscles were aching, and he probably planned on not getting up again for at least an hour or two.

That pleased me. I wanted an interview with Orndorff, and I didn't feel like following him all over Atlanta.

That happens sometimes. A wrestler will come out of a match with so much adrenaline still pumping in his system that he simply has to hit the nightlife to work it all off.

Not Paul Orndorff, and I was thankful for that. I had become tired myself simply from *watching* him wrestle Jimmy Snuka. I could only imagine what the experience must have been for him.

Of course, there was more than physical exertion involved in this confrontation. Snuka and Orndorff were tag team partners at one time. More than simply tag team partners, they had been champions, holding the NWA tag team championship belts together.

To see former partners, former friends, wrestling each other with such bitterness and contempt was a draining experience as well.

And again, I could only imagine what the experience must have been for Orndorff.

I asked Orndorff what it felt like to be wrestling against a

PAUL ORNDORFF: THE ONLY MAN WHO CAN SAVE JIMMY SNUKA FROM LOU ALBANO

Photos By Bill Apter



Is Lou Albano the only man able to get through to Jimmy Snuka (above)? Paul Orndorff believes he can be of great help to his former partner. Paul brings Snuka down hard with a perfectly executed armdrag (right).



former tag team partner.

"It's very hard to describe," said Orndorff. "I have very mixed emotions about that match with Snuka. In one sense, I have to hate him, because he's my opponent. If you want to win a match, you have to build up a hate for your opponent. That feeling helps you to gain an extra edge, and in some cases it can make the difference between victory and defeat.

"But in another way I have a lot of sympathy for Jimmy," Orndorff continued. "We were tag partners; I know him as well as anyone else in wrestling. I don't think that he should be hooked up with Captain Lou Albano. It's not good for Jimmy,

because he could be doing so much more with his career."

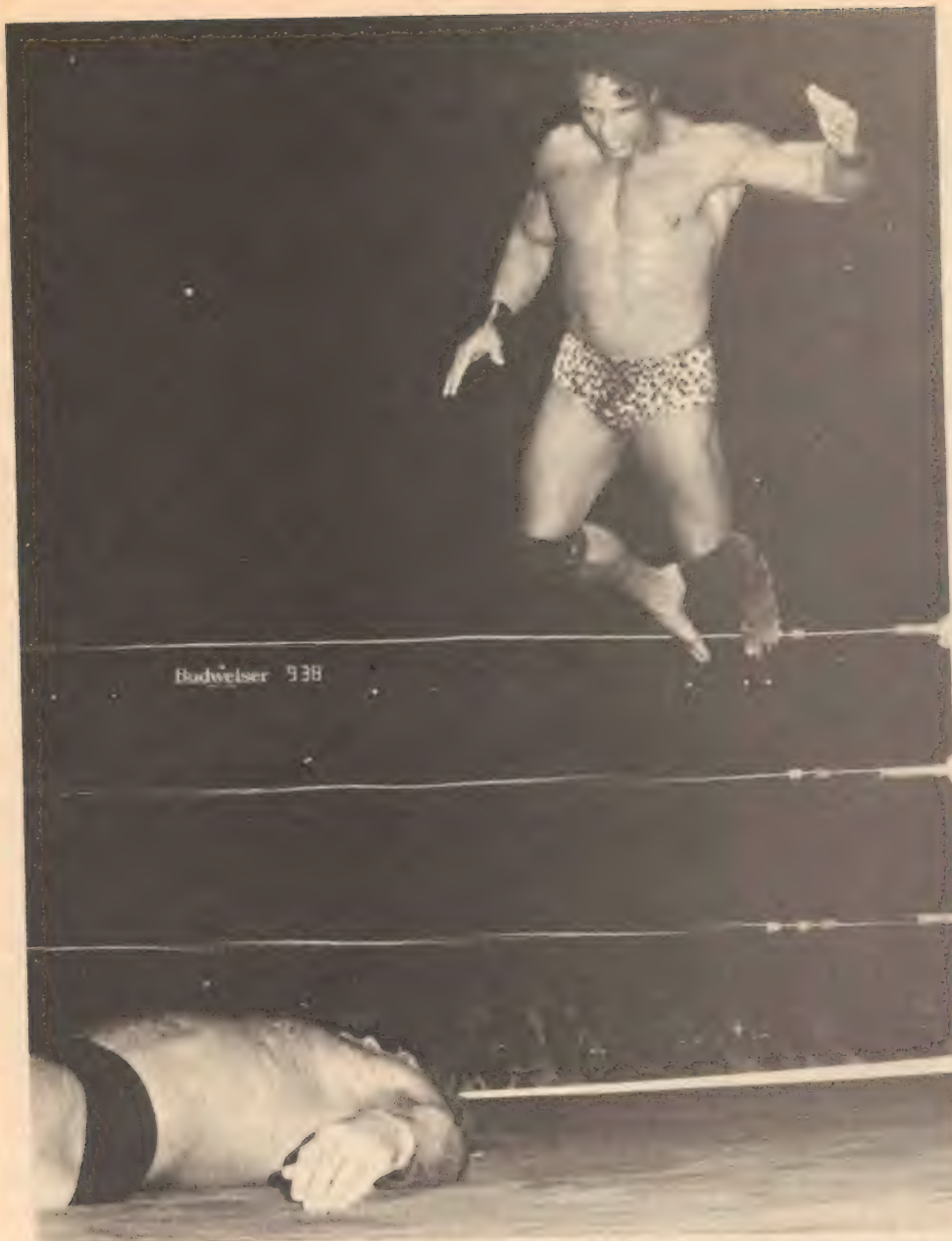
I pointed out that it seems as if Snuka is going through the same kinds of problems now that Orndorff did nearly a year ago.

"Well, in a way you're right, Stu," Orndorff replied. "I had been feuding with Ted DiBiase at the time, but I soon realized that I was on the wrong track as far as my outlook on wrestling went, and I changed. Now DiBiase himself has gotten onto that same track that I used to be on, and I hope he comes to his senses soon. I don't like to see a good man waste his talents like that.

"And that's another reason

why it hurt me so much to be wrestling against Jimmy," Orndorff continued. "I really feel he is wasting his talents by staying with Albano. Make no mistake about it, Snuka is one of the most talented men in the entire sport today. He's got the physique, he's got the skills and the moves, and his experience is growing greater each year. More than that, he *learns* from each match. Every time he wrestles, whether it's win, lose, or draw, Snuka comes away from that match with something he didn't have when he stepped into that ring. It may be a little grain of knowledge that he never had before, or a fine-tuning of one of his maneuvers, or something

Paul Orndorff is perhaps the closest thing to a friend Jimmy Snuka has in wrestling. Orndorff would like the opportunity to talk some sense into Snuka, and perhaps convince him to escape from the clutches of Captain Lou Albano. As long as the two men wage war in the squared circle, that opportunity will never come



"The only other person I might think would even come close is Terry Gordy, but to the best of my knowledge, Terry and Jimmy's relationship together was purely and strictly business.

"There was a time," said Orndorff, his voice dropping to a hush, "when I think Jimmy really considered me a friend."



else altogether. No matter what, he always gains something new and valuable out of every one of his matches, and that's where he is truly talented.

"I can only hope that he learns quickly how he is wasting himself with Albano," Orndorff said. "I would really like to be able to sit down and talk with Jimmy for a while. I think that since I know him so well from our tag days together, I might be able to talk some sense into him. I'd sure like to give it a try, at least, I know that much."

I wondered aloud whether there was anyone else in wrestling who could talk to Snuka in the way that Orndorff wished he had the chance to.

"I doubt it," said Orndorff.



Nobody was more surprised than Snuka when Orndorff survived his "death leap" from the top turnbuckle (above left). He shouldn't have been, though. Snuka, who held the NWA tag team title with Orndorff in 1979 (above), should have known just how tough his former partner is. Orndorff applies a step-through wristlock (left).

As long as these two men remain adversaries in the ring, however, they are going to remain adversaries out of the ring. That won't help Orndorff to help Snuka, and it won't help Snuka to escape Albano.

Perhaps someday the opportunity will come for Paul Orndorff, an opportunity to talk to an old friend and perhaps change the course of his entire career. □

DAVID VON ERICH

"I'D RATHER QUIT WRESTLING THAN BE DORY FUNK JR.'S PUPPET"



For months, Dory Funk Jr. had taught David Von Erich all his secrets of success. David soon realized that this was not the way he wanted to win matches, and the student turned fiercely on the teacher. Yes, David regained his self-respect, and gained no small measure of revenge in the bargain

Photos By Bill Otten and Paul Bauman

MANY FANS FELT it was the grudge match of the year.

In one corner, David Von Erich. He had raised many eyebrows and created one of the largest controversies in recent memory when he apparently turned his back on his father, Fritz, and his two brothers, Kevin and Kerry.

In the other corner, Dory Funk Jr. When David turned away from his family, it was Dory whom he

The Funk-Von Erich combination did not last. After a short while, Von Erich realized the error of his ways.



Before he even removes his warmup jacket, Von Erich stuns Funk with a full-force attack (left). Funk illegally uses the ropes for leverage as he attempts to execute a spinning toehold (below).



turned to. Dory took David on as if he were his own son, training and advising him, and eventually guiding him to the Southern title.

But David soon realized that the moves and methods he was learning from Dory were not the moves and methods on which he wanted to base the rest of his career.

So David, in the words of one observer, "came to his senses." He renounced the ways and teachings of the Funks and returned to the Von Erich family fold.

When a promoter suggested a match be set up between Von Erich and Funk, David was only too happy to comply.

In a pre-match press conference, David Von Erich was eager to speak about the situation.

"I can't wait to step into the ring with that imbecile," said David. "I really want to teach him a lesson about wrestling and about people.

"You know," David continued,

"Dory thinks he has a lot of advantages over me, and maybe in some ways he does. Sure, he's got some years on me and he's got ring experience on me, but as far as I'm concerned, the years and experience he does have over me are worthless."

One reporter asked David why he decided to leave the Funk camp and return to his family.

"It took a little bit of time for things to sink in," David explained, "but I finally realized that I didn't want to win my matches the way Funk was teaching me to win matches. What goes on in the ring is a large part of a wrestler's life. Hell, it's easily the most important part of his life. But once you step out of that ring you have to live with yourself. You have to be able to go to sleep at night with a clear conscience.

"I knew that if I kept on going the way Funk was teaching me," David continued, "I would soon

reach the point where I wouldn't be able to live with myself. It's a tough realization, and it came pretty hard to me. When I first hooked up with Squiggy, I thought he had all the answers. But I'll tell you, I'd rather quit wrestling than be Dory Funk Jr.'s puppet. It's not easy to admit to yourself that you made a drastic mistake, but I had to admit that, and I had to get away from the Funks for my own good."

Another reporter wondered whether David's winning the Southern title under the tutelage of the Funks cheapened that title at all.

"Yes and no," replied David. "I think that I am capable of winning the belt at any time, and I did defeat Jack Brisco for the belt, not a easy task by any stretch of the imagination. But I won the belt using the tactics of the Funks, and when I realized later on that I didn't want to win that way, it cheapened the title for

me immediately.

"On the other hand," David continued, "once I decided to return to the Von Erich style of wrestling, to a style of wrestling that I have readopted and that I hope to keep my own for a long time to come, I feel I brought a small measure of respect back to the belt. It was respect from the fans that simply wasn't there when the championship was existing in the shadow of the Funks.

"Sure, I lost the title to Derek Draper," David said, "but I did so with honor. I'd rather lose a title

Funk's illegal offensive (below) is brief. Von Erich has revenge on his mind and the skill and desire to achieve his goal. David reaches far back to deliver a right hand to the side of his former teacher's face (right). Seconds later, Funk will throw up his hands in disgust and simply walk out of the ring for the safety of the dressing room.



with honor and respect than win a title with underhanded cheating. That's one of the most basic rules of sportsmanship that Dory Funk

Jr. will never understand as long as he lives."

The press conference over, David prepared for his match against Dory.

The fans in the arena, fully aware of the situation that surrounds the two men, were well prepared to witness what could well be one of the year's top matches.

As the ring announcer spoke the names of David Von Erich and Dory Funk Jr., the combatants emerged from their respective dressing rooms fully prepared to settle the differences between them once and for all.

David made the first move, attacking Dory even before David removed his jacket. David was on a rampage, and he was ready and willing to repay Dory for the long months of doubt and pain he had suffered. After several minutes, Funk determined that he could not match his rival's intensity. Rather than try to wrestle his way back, he threw up his hands and simply walked back to the dressing room.

Several minutes of pain in return for several months of agony. David Von Erich felt it was a square deal. Dory Funk Jr. was not so sure. □



*****WRESTLING*****

ENQUIRER

BRISCO REGAINS
MID-ATLANTIC
TITLE
FROM PIPER

BY BILL APTER

RALEIGH, NC—In what many observers felt was a startling upset, Jack Brisco defeated Roddy Piper to regain the Mid-Atlantic title.

Piper utilized a roll of quarters in attempting to turn back Brisco's challenge (the same

strategy he used to win the title a month earlier), but he was ultimately unsuccessful as Brisco rallied in the later minutes to pin Piper and take the belt.

"Piper tried every trick in the book," said Brisco, "but they all failed. The Mid-Atlantic belt is around my waist to stay."



Jack Brisco wrestled brilliantly in regaining the Mid-Atlantic championship from Roddy Piper.

David Von Erich Returns Home To Rousing Ovations



David Von Erich announced his rejection of Dory Funk Jr. and returned home to his loyal supporters.

BY STEVE FARHOOD

DALLAS—The airport here was crowded with hundreds of David Von Erich fans bearing signs and shouting cheers for their favorite wrestler.

David returned home from Florida where he put the final nail in the coffin of his relationship with the Funks. Von Erich fans have hailed David's rejection of the Funks as the beginning of a new era in the Von Erich history of wrestling.

Sonny King And J.J. Dillon Battle For Control

BY CRAIG PETERS

ATLANTA—It appears as if a power struggle is developing regarding the future of Kimala, the Ugandan Giant.

Sonny King has been negotiating for Kimala's Georgia contract, while J.J. Dillon has been guiding his career in Florida and Tennessee.

Sooner or later, these two managers will have to sit down at the bargaining table. The decisions that will be made there will determine the future of this potential superstar.

Grand Wizard Plans New Tag Team

BY STU SAKS

WASHINGTON, D.C.—It has recently been discovered that The Grand Wizard of Wrestling has obtained the contract of Beautiful Bobby, and plans to team him up with what WWF sources have termed "an unknown giant partner."

Rumors circulating in the WWF state that this unknown giant is akin to an uncivilized beast, and will be quite a departure from the types of wrestlers that Wizard has managed in the past.

Superstar Graham Returns To WWF

BY PETER KING

NEW YORK—Looking better than ever, Superstar Graham has made his long-awaited return to WWF wrestling rings.

Graham, who is again under the guidance of The Grand Wizard, has spent the past four years becoming an expert in



Superstar Graham toughs up Bruiser Brody in preparation for his assault on the WWF and Bob Backlund.

karate and kung-fu, and his mastery of martial arts will no doubt prove to be a major hurdle for Bob Backlund when the current WWF champion and the former WWF champion inevitably clash.

"I want the title back," said Graham, "Backlund stole it from me over four years ago. Justice must be served. I will get my title back."

AROUND THE GLOBE

LOS ANGELES, CA

Greg Valentine can no longer complain about being the victim of bad decisions on Bob Backlund's "home" WWF turf. He wrestled Bob at the Olympic Auditorium and the champion retained his title.

HOUSTON, TX

Dick Slater is claiming the AWA title after a wild brawl against champion Nick Bockwinkel. Dick pinned Bockwinkel's shoulders, but the count was administered by a non-official referee so the title could not change hands. The official referee became entangled in the action and was accidentally knocked unconscious.

TAMPA, FL

Lumberjack Jos LeDuc is reportedly set to sign a multimillion dollar contract with manager James J. Dillon. LeDuc, who has wrestled in Florida many times throughout his career, is said to be signing an exclusive six-month deal with bonuses for inflicting debilitating injuries.

MONTREAL, QUEBEC

Billy Robinson is after the Canadian International title that was recently stripped from Dino Bravo. To get into the scheduled elimination tournament, Robinson must first prove himself with victories over five area stars.

ATLANTA, GA

Tito Santana has picked a great partner for his battles against The Samoans, Afa and Sika: Andre the Giant. Andre and Tito teamed several times in the WWF and AWA and work very well together.

LOOKING AT...

Matt Brock:



OKAY, OKAY, SO maybe I *am* the kind of guy who carries a grudge. I don't like to be that way, but let's be serious. After all, the man broke Bruno Sammartino's neck!

I just don't like him. Big man, lots of words, but he's just one card short of a full deck between the ears.

I can see the mail coming in right now:

Dear Matt: What's wrong with you, you drunken old fool? Can't you recognize talent when you see it? Don't you realize that Stan Hansen is a champion? A champion! He's the co-holder of the tag team championship for the entire NWA, and you dismiss him as if he was a prelim bum! Sober up, you idiot, and start to acknowledge real talent once in a while.

Well, it won't be the first time.

All right, let's go down the list and see what he's got going for him:

- The lariat, the weapon he used to break Bruno's neck. So devastating a finishing move that it's been banned by many state athletic commissions across

the country.

- He's being advised by J.J. Dillon, one of the most insidious men ever to get involved in the sport of wrestling.

- He's one of the most vicious brawlers in the entire sport, a reputation that should invite the disgust of every right-thinking wrestling fan, but which Hansen himself is extremely proud of.

- He's boastful, arrogant, conceited, and very possibly the most egotistical man ever to wear an NWA tag team belt. To his credit, however, I notice that he allows his partner Ole Anderson to do most of the talking for his team.

You need more evidence?

In Japan, where the licensing procedures for tag teams are quite different from those in the states,



STAN HANSEN



Hansen and Bruiser Brody, a combination barred in most of the United States, effectively double-team Terry Funk in Japan (opposite page). Tommy Rich desperately tries to evade Hansen's flying elbowdrop (above).

Hansen regularly teams up with Bruiser Brody.

Have you ever seen Hansen and Brody together in the same tag team? Probably not. Most states won't even consider giving that combination a license to wrestle, and the few states that do only grant a temporary license, stating that the combination of Hansen and Brody is too dangerous to be allowed in the ring.

Smart states.

Hell, I just don't know where to stop with this guy. Then again, he never knows where to stop with his opponents. No mercy from the big, bad man from Borger, Texas. No mercy and no way to defeat him.

Scientific wrestling will never defeat Hansen, because his brawling tactics will just overwhelm you. Try and meet him on his own rulebreaking terms, and you'll still lose. He's too big and too mean.

If you're a wrestler, my advice to you is just to stay away from this guy. No, come to think of it, no matter who you are, the best advice I can give you is to stay out of Hansen's way. The man himself ought to be a registered weapon.

Keep those cards and letters coming in, folks! □

THE FEUD EXPLODES ON NETWORK TV



JERRY LAWLER'S LIPS pursed together in frustration and aggravation. He was watching tapes of Andy Kaufman that he had seen many times before. They showed Kaufman goading Lawler into a wrestling match, degrading his Tennessee heritage, and boasting about his own Hollywood lifestyle.

They were tapes that were made and sent to Tennessee during the weeks prior to the April 5, 1982, wrestling match between Lawler and Kaufman. Their purpose, as far as Kaufman was concerned, was to incite and anger Lawler. They succeeded. Lawler was angry enough to send Kaufman to

the hospital with a pair of piledrivers.

Lawler watched these tapes sandwiched between Kaufman and television host David Letterman. The occasion was a taping of Letterman's *Late Night* program, and the tapes were being shown to the studio and home audiences to give them some background on the feud between Lawler and Kaufman. It was the first time since April 5 that the two men have been in the same room together.

When the tapes were over, Letterman asked Kaufman why he had sent the tapes to Tennessee.

"Well, I don't see how a person could get so mad from that,"

Kaufman explained as Lawler looked on in disgust. "I think he [Lawler] was taking it too seriously."

Kaufman then pointed out that he felt Lawler owed him an apology, saying, "I apologized for all the wrestling I've ever done, all the abuse I've ever given the people that didn't understand what I was doing, and I simply think an apology is in order."

Letterman then asked Lawler whether he felt an apology would be an equitable solution.

"No, I don't think I owe him an apology," replied Lawler. "You know, he says it was all a big joke. I'm sure it was to him."

Letterman then asked if Lawler

When Jerry Lawler sent comedian Andy Kaufman to the hospital with a pair of piledrivers, he thought he had heard the last of Kaufman. When television host David Letterman invited both men to appear on his late night talk show, it became clear that the hatred between them was far from forgotten



Andy Kaufman, still wearing a neck brace, demands an apology on national television from Jerry Lawler for injuries the wrestler inflicted on the comedian five months earlier (above). Despite the pleas of host David Letterman, Lawler rises from his chair and will slap Kaufman out of his (below).



wanted to hurt Kaufman when he executed two piledrivers against the comedian in their April 5 match.

"Well, yeah," said Lawler, "I felt I had to hurt him."

"In all the matches and all the

women I wrestled," Kaufman shot back, "I was bigger than most of them, and not once did anyone ever get hurt. I never had to prove anything."

"This is something I take very

seriously," Lawler explained as Letterman and a national television audience looked on. "He did it all for publicity. That's why he's still wearing . . . I don't know if it's a neck brace or a flea collar, but



Kaufman tumbles to the floor, more humiliated than hurt (above). After the commercial break, Kaufman reappears on the set with a tirade of obscenities that was censored from airing (below).



he doesn't need to wear it this long. He's milking it for every bit of publicity he can get, and that's all he's doing."

Kaufman and Lawler then began to argue back and forth about their match. Kaufman maintained that

he was still owed an apology, telling Lawler, "If you're the man you *think* you are, you would apologize."

Kaufman admitted that the April 5 match was entered into as a joke, and Lawler pointed out that

wrestling is not a joke. "Did you laugh when you were laying in the hospital?" Lawler asked Kaufman.

The argument was getting extremely heated when Letterman rang a timekeeper's bell he had hidden under his desk. The



Kaufman's only offensive move in their April match in Memphis was a headlock that Lawler allowed himself to be placed in (above left). The second of two vicious piledrivers (above right) landed Kaufman in the hospital.

audience laughter and the break in the tension was only temporary, however, as Lawler and Kaufman were once again at verbal war seconds later.

Letterman asked if the entire match was fixed, if in fact Lawler and Kaufman are really friends outside of the ring.

"I couldn't warm up to this guy if we were cremated together," sneered Lawler. "He is a wimp. That's exactly what he thought about wrestling, that it's all a big joke."

"Let me tell you something," Kaufman replied angrily, "My father said, my manager said, everybody said that I could have gone to a lawyer and I could have sued you for everything you're worth, but I didn't. All I want is an apology. I could have sued you for everything you're worth, but I didn't because I'm not that kind

of guy."

"What kind of a guy are you?" Lawler asked, condescension dripping from every syllable.

Lawler then stood up from his chair, fed up with Kaufman's incessant pleas for an apology, and smacked Kaufman across the face knocking him out of his chair and onto the floor.

Four minutes' worth of commercials later, Kaufman was back on his feet screaming at Lawler:

"I am sick and tired of this [bleep]. You are full of [bleep] my friend, and I will sue you for everything you've got. I will sue your [bleep], you're a [bleep] [bleep]! I will get you for this!"

Kaufman punctuated his remarks by throwing Letterman's coffee in Lawler's face. Lawler lunged at Kaufman again, but the

comedian retreated to the safety of the backstage area.

"He deserved everything he got," said Lawler in a telephone interview the following day, "and he didn't even get all that he deserved. He's a wimp. I'm not afraid of any of his threats."

A spokesman for Andy Kaufman, however, told *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* that Lawler's nationally televised attack had aggravated the neck injury that originally occurred during the April 5 wrestling match, and that a lawsuit will be filed in the very near future.

It appears as if the final chapter of the Lawler-Kaufman feud will be written not in the wrestling arena, but rather in the legal arena. It could be a confrontation that will cost Lawler far more than any pinfall would. □

Hulk Hogan

(Continued from Page 28)



Hogan pries Ken Patera off the ropes for a whip into the opposite turnbuckles (above). Patera, who admits to have never faced a man with as much raw strength as Hogan, is lifted by his throat (below). What is more important to Hogan, the glory of athletic achievement or the glamour of Hollywood?

Nick Bockwinkel's AWA championship, millions of adoring fans, and his life-long love of wrestling; that's what, Mr. Janz.

"I must beat Bockwinkel," Hogan said, teeth grinding. "That guy is a disgrace to wrestling. He calls himself a champion but a champion doesn't run and hide. He intentionally got himself disqualified the last time he wrestled me and it's not going to happen again."

Hulk Hogan was smoking and there was a gleam in his eyes. For



a brief moment he was not thinking about anything but his true love—professional wrestling.

But the temptations of Hollywood are great. And they are ever present. In the midst of our interview in a Minneapolis restaurant, a fan of Hulk Hogan—the movie star—approached him, and suddenly Hogan forgot about Bockwinkel. "I loved your last film," the shapely young brunette cooed. "When will I get to see your next movie?" Suddenly there was a new gleam in Hogan's eyes—that of bright spotlights and a bronze statuettes with the name "Oscar" written across the base.

"Before long, you'll see my name all over Hollywood," he replied. "I'll be on every movie marquee across the country."

But Hogan's words lacked the usual conviction and assuredness he usually conveys. For once, this monster of muscle was confused, trapped by a decision he doesn't know how to make. He knows, though, that nobody can make the decision for him.

Wrestling fans know what they want. They want to see Hulk Hogan beat Nick Bockwinkel to a bloody pulp and then, before the champion can get himself disqualified or Bobby Heenan could interfere, see Bockwinkel pinned to the mat.

And moviegoers know what they want. Imagine the critics' raves as Hogan embraces a beautiful blonde at the end of a classic love story or, in the manner of Charles Bronson, stops a gang of ruthless criminals.

It's a tug of war for Hulk Hogan. Will it be Nick Bockwinkel or Nick Nolte, the squared circle or the silver screen?

He can have one or the other. And as both sides pull, only Hulk Hogan, wrestler and movie star, can decide. □

WHAT THEY ARE SAYING

(Continued from Page 29)

MICHAEL HAYES

"I don't care what it takes, if it takes a week, a month, or an entire year, I am going to make Stan Hansen and Ole Anderson pay for their cowardly two-on-one ambush of me. I don't stand for that kind of unprovoked attack, and I will make sure that Freebird Fantasia takes care of business and exacts revenge for what those snakes did to me."



THE GRAND WIZARD

"It's only a matter of time, Backlund, only a matter of time. you've had more than four years as a cheap excuse for a champion, but that time is going to be up very soon. It is time for you to face the truth, Backlund, and the truth is coming to you in the face of Superstar Billy Graham. Look well upon that face, Backlund, for it is the last face you will see as champion."



NICK BOCKWINKEL

"Everybody is so jealous of my status as a champion, I really find that I have to laugh. How can these people seriously keep criticizing me for actions that I never even perform? The only reason they continue to claim that I disqualify myself and that Bobby Heenan always intercedes on my behalf is jealousy, pure and simple."



DUSTY RHODES

"I'm happy to announce that I'm going to be holding an ugly contest, kind of like a beauty contest, but we're going to honor the ugliest mugs in wrestling. First place will probably go to Terry Funk, with Squiggy Funk Jr. and Kendo Nagasaki coming in very close behind."



Between Falls

(Continued from Page 6)

and to top it all off, a spectacular Sunday night card at the Auditorium.

Weekend wrestling...there's nothing better!

PAT KREBBS
Omaha, NE



A confused Bob Backlund is the subject of an argument between his manager, Arnold Skoaland, and referee Mario Savoldi.

COWARDLY CHAMPION

An open letter to Bob Backlund:

Bob, I used to think you were the greatest wrestler in the history of wrestling. I am in the U.S. Army and all I can do to keep up with the latest matches is to read the wrestling magazines. What I read about you is not the way a true champion should act. A true champion defends his title to the best of his ability, not have his manager to come to his aid every time he's going to lose. Right now I think you are a *coward* because of the way you keep your title.

Either wrestle like a true champion or don't wrestle at all. Otherwise, you are not a true champion.

FRANK CZERWINSKI
PV2 U.S. Army

WILDFIRE'S TOO WILD?

I can't figure out Timmy Rich. One minute he's saying that he's mellow and low-keyed, and the next minute he's drooling like George Steele, screaming, "It's

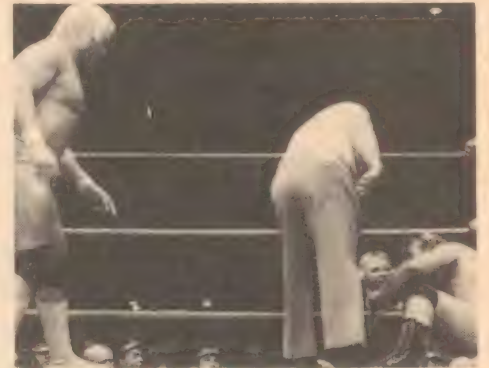
crazy time!" along with some other incoherent nonsense that could be quoted from any psycho ward reject.

I can't judge physical abilities because I've only seen him against the sub-morons they have him wrestle on TV, but how can anyone so obviously lacking in mental stability be expected to win a title, much less defend it for any length of time?

DAVID BITET
Dix Hills, NY

HE'S NO CHAMPION!

Nick Bockwinkel is the worst AWA so-called champion in the history of the association. A real champion accepts all challenges. But Bobby the Weasel goes and says that the *real* champion, the man who deserves to wear the belt, Hulk Hogan, gets no more title shots.



An impatient Hulk Hogan waits for Nick Bockwinkel to conclude his strategy conference with Bobby Heenan.

I can't believe this garbage! First his plan of getting Andre to wrestle Hogan backfires, and now this!

Then again, what's the use of wrestling Bockwinkel? He waits for the bell to ring and then jumps out of the ring and when he comes back in he gets the belt because he got himself disqualified.

Bockwinkel is worthless. Hulk Hogan is the *real* AWA champion.

JIMMY PAPADOPOULOS
Astoria, NY



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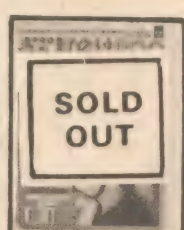
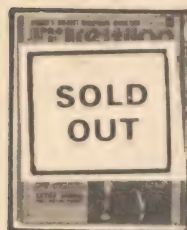


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Color Starshot: Mr. Wrestling II

PWI/May 80

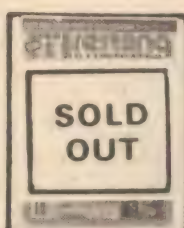
Color Starshot: Ric Flair

PWI/July 80

Color Starshot: The Sheik

PWI/Aug 80

Color Starshot: Koloff & Smirnoff



PWI/Sept 80

Color Starshots: Rick Steamboat, Humpertink's Army, Hulk Hogan

PWI/Jan 81

Color Poster: Bruno Sammartino

PWI/Feb 81

Color Poster: Rick Steamboat

PWI/Apr 81

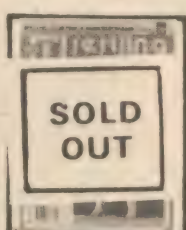
Color Poster: Hulk Hogan

PWI/May 81

Color Poster: Mr. Wrestling II

PWI/Aug 81

Color Poster: Dusty Rhodes



PWI/Oct 81

Color Poster: Ted DiBiase

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PWI/Feb 82

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PWI/Mar 82

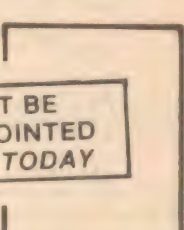
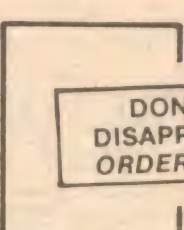
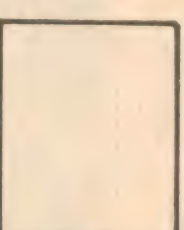
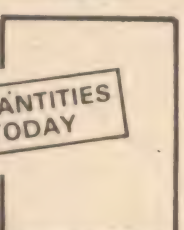
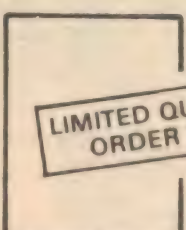
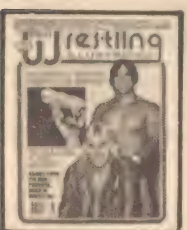
Color Poster: Tony Atlas

PWI/May 82

Color Poster: Ric Flair

PWI/June 82

Color Poster: Nick Backwinkel



PWI/Aug 82

Color Poster: Dino Bravo

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Color Poster: Blackjack Mulligan Jr.

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(Continued from Page 10)



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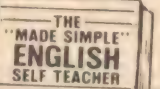
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his heroism, and it was Gordon Solie, not Piper, who broke the story on *Georgia Championship Wrestling*. As Solie said on the air, "Rod Piper is too modest to tell this story himself." Fans in Georgia, many of whom had booed Piper unmercifully just a few moments before, stood up and applauded. According to sources at GCW, Piper, who was backstage when Solie made the announcement, blushed in embarrassment.

Brisco. But Piper refused to do anything illegal this night. He wrestled by the rules and did so splendidly. Finally, after Piper refused to hit Wahoo while he was being held in a full-nelson by Flair, Flair attacked an unsuspecting Piper. The NWA champion ripped off Piper's shirt and stomped on the knife wound, breaking open the stitches and starting a fresh flow of blood. Flair, his ugly act done, quickly left the ring.



Roddy Piper, now shunned by half the fans and half his fellow wrestlers, can live comfortably with himself; he's a hero.

"That's very nice of Gordon," Piper reportedly said, "but it really wasn't necessary."

A few days after his appearance on GCW, Piper teamed with Ric Flair in a match against Wahoo McDaniel and Jack Brisco in Charlotte, North Carolina. Observers at that match swear Piper looked different as he entered the arena. Gone was the smirk. In its place was a pleasant, if tense, smile. He was also wearing a shirt to hide his recent wounding.

During the match, Flair kept demanding that Piper help him double-team either Wahoo or

McDaniel and Brisco, who had watched in amazement, now came over to see if they could aid Piper. But Rod pushed them away, screaming, "I don't need anyone! Leave me alone!" Wahoo and Jack decided to leave the ring and let Piper calm down on his own. Later, in the dressing room, Piper sat with his head down. He refused to talk to anyone. He refused to ask for help.

Perhaps it is time for us to be brave. Roddy Piper has suffered enough. Now we must be heroes too. We must forget the past.

We must help Roddy Piper. □

Ringside

(Continued from Page 8)



Roy Rogers (applying a headlock on Bobby Garrett) has announced that his real name is Johnny Rich and he is the cousin of Tommy Rich.

that his true identity is Johnny Rich and that he is the cousin of Tommy Rich . . . Americas champion Adrian Street says he has a use for each of his six valets. "One to shine my boots, another to keep my wardrobe up to date, one to groom my hair, one to spray my perfume around the ring and fumigate the smell of my opponents. Then, of course, there is one beautiful lady to drive me to the arena and one to open the limousine door when I arrive." Some life, eh?

Roger Kirby proclaims he is the greatest Central States champion of all time. "When they write the history books, I will be the only Central States champion anyone will ever remember," he insists . . . It seemed like old times in St. Louis recently when Dory Funk Jr. upended Gene Kiniski. Dory defeated "Big Thunder" Kiniski in 1969 in Florida to win the NWA title.



Eddie Gilbert has suffered cuts, bruises, and broken bones. But nothing compares with the burns he sustained at the hands of Kangaroo Don Kent.

Ted DiBiase has made it to the top of our "Most Hated" list in this month's ratings. Fans all over the Mid-South area now hate the man they once idolized. "If that's true," he said, "I feel bad for them. In a

matter of months I'll be NWA champion, and they won't be around to share in the celebration."

Big John Studd has signed with WWF promoters for several matches later this year . . . Dusty Rhodes has renewed an old friendship with Ron Bass. Dusty and Bass, fellow Texans, were buddies many years ago. "We went out drinkin' together and raised all kinds of hell," Dusty says. "Then he turned bad and we didn't speak until a few months ago. Now he is comin' to Florida to help me squeeze J.J. Dillon's head off."

Kendo Nagasaki, Dillon's top charge, has a new tag team partner in King Kong Tonga from the isle of Tonga in the South Pacific . . . Someone dressed in a gorilla suit ran into the ring in Dallas, Texas, and hit Gary Hart, Kabuki, and the Golden Dragon with cream pies. As they cleared their faces of the whipped cream, the man took off his gorilla head revealing the face of Bugsy McGraw. "I thought it was the most humiliating thing I have ever done to anyone," Bugsy said. "Did you see how stupid they looked!"

Eddie Gilbert was hospitalized with burns after a vicious fire attack by Kangaroo Don Kent. "Kent will pay for what he did to my boy!" Eddie's dad, Tommy, solemnly vows. Gilbert has enlisted the help of Abdullah the Butcher to go up against The Kangaroos.

Leroy Brown has earned his nickname "Bad" now that he has signed on with Sir Oliver Humperdink in the Mid-Atlantic region . . . Bulldog Bob Brown is grappling in Vancouver after dropping a Loser Leave Town match to Masked Superfly in Kansas City . . . Missouri manager Gary Royal is guiding the Samoan team of Tio and Tapu as well as Hercules Hernandez.

That's all for now. See you at ringside! □

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On Assignment

(Continued from Page 12)

why *couldn't* he do modeling? Is it really that crazy? After all, Jim Palmer promotes underwear in magazine advertisements all the time, so why not Jerry Brisco?

The only thing I couldn't figure out was what was he selling? At least Jim Palmer had underwear on, but was it Brisco's idea to promote a certain brand of wrestling boot?

"No, the idea for some sort of advertising modeling came

later," Brisco explained. "The initial idea was simply to do regular pictorial modeling for a major women's magazine. I thought a shot like this would help convince the editorial staff, but they just sent it back with a thank you and a form rejection letter."

I wondered whether Jerry had any thoughts about trying again to get into a women's magazine, or to do any modeling for advertisements again.



Jerry Brisco brings former Freebird Buddy Roberts crashing to the canvas with a back suplex (above). Jerry held the NWA junior heavyweight championship briefly after a victory over Les Thornton (opposite page).

"Well, I'm always open to the idea," said Jerry, "but of course I would have to be very careful about what kinds of products or what kinds of publicity the use of that shot would give me. I'm sure you can understand, if that photo ever fell into the wrong hands, it might create problems for me that I could never surmount."



So Jerry *does* still want the publicity. I was beginning to wonder whether it was Jerry himself who sent me the photo. If it was, he's a lot craftier a public relations man than I ever imagined. If it wasn't him, then who could have sent it?

I knew Jerry wouldn't have the answers to those questions, so I thanked him for his time and cut our conversation short. I put my question of "Who sent the photo?" on the back burner. It really isn't *that* important, at least not right now. And at least I managed to get a good column out of the incident.

Proof positive that *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* will go to any lengths to uncover the latest and greatest in wrestling news, both in and out of the ring.

See you next month. ☐

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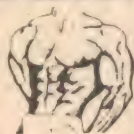
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July 25, 1982, was a red letter day for the Eddie Graham Sports Complex in Orlando, Florida. The largest crowd in Orlando wrestling history saw Ric Flair defend his NWA title against Butch Reed in the steel cage.

Cage matches in Florida are won by either a pinfall or a submission. The referee is locked in the cage with the wrestlers, and the door is not unlocked until a positive finish has been reached.



RIC FLAIR

After 30 minutes of a brutal match, a bloody Ric Flair managed to pin Reed, retaining his NWA belt and gaining a critical victory over the man who pinned him during a controversial overtime period on television.

The record-shattering crowd also saw Sweet Brown Sugar win the Southern title from Derek Draper, as well as Dusty Rhodes winning two straight falls from Kendo Nagasaki.



BOB SWEETAN

THE BATTLE OF THE PILEDRIERS

There are many wrestling fans and professionals who claim that the piledriver is a maneuver that should be banned immediately.

Well, two masters of this controversial move will be facing each other in the ring in San Antonio, Texas.

Bruiser Bob Sweetan and Jerry Lawler will collide in the squared circle, and it may well be a battle to see who can apply the piledriver first.

In any event, it's likely that one of these men will be carried from the ring wishing that the piledriver *had* been banned. ☐



JERRY LAWLER

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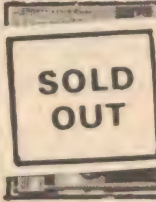
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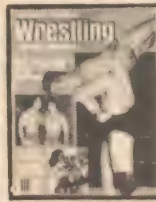
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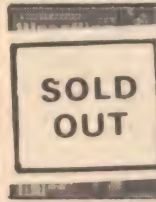
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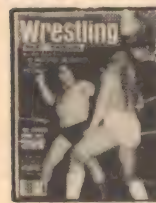
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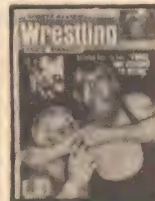
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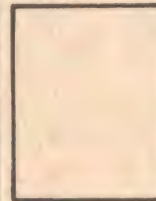
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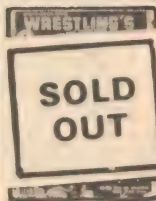
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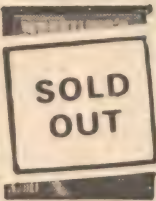
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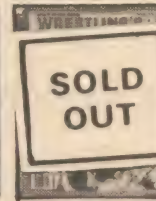
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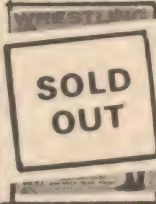
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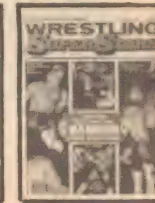
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Bruno Sammartino and Pedro Morales had been destroyed.

Seeing clearly but still blinded by hatred, Sammartino and Morales stood inches apart as Kroll concluded his instructions. He ordered the two men to shake hands. They would not.

The action at first was very fast. Bruno looked good, but Pedro looked great. Instead of slugging it out like he was usually forced to against rulebreaker challengers, Morales utilized his speed and agility. Both wrestlers tried to establish an advantage utilizing a scientific approach. The crowd of 22,508 at New York's Shea Stadium (the attendance was held down considerably by cool, drizzly weather) was split in its allegiance. A number of people rooted for neither, but were on hand to see one of the all-time classic confrontations. And it was just that. Despite the preconceived notions of the fans—and the combatants—this would be a *scientific* grudge match. At no time did either man use an illegal maneuver or so much as throw a punch.

At about the 10-minute mark, it became quite apparent that the hatred that drove both men into signing the match had been

overwhelmed by the respect these men have held for each other over the past decade. This match was a rare opportunity for both men to utilize their preferred wrestling styles, and not have to stoop to the tactics of the treacherous opponents they usually face.

An interesting sidelight to the match occurred at about the 30-minute mark. (It must be noted here that the ring was set up over second base. The wrestlers came out of the dressing rooms from an opening in the fence behind home plate. It was a considerable distance from the dressing room to the ring.) The action inside the ring was at a peak. Morales bodyslammed his challenger twice and climbed to the top turnbuckle. Bruno got to his feet, lifted the champ off the turnbuckle, threw him to the mat, and went for a pin. Morales threw Bruno off at the two-count.

Just then, George Steele (who was scheduled to wrestle Professor Tanaka later) came charging across the infield toward the ring. Morales and Sammartino stopped wrestling. Nobody knew who Steele was planning to attack. "The Animal" climbed to the ring





Sammartino locks Morales in an armbar (opposite page). Bruno got off the canvas to lift Pedro off the turnbuckles before the champion could make his leap (above).

apron where he was greeted by a barrage of Sammartino fists. Steele fell to the infield and 20 security guards escorted him back to the dressing room.

The match resumed and continued at an even clip the rest of the way. At one point, Morales accidentally bumped Kroll and sent him falling out of the ring. The two wrestlers waited patiently for the referee to recover before continuing the battle.

The 11 p.m. curfew ended the match at the 76-minute mark. The official verdict was a draw. The fans stood and applauded as Bruno and Pedro embraced and raised each other's hands. They were, in fact, both winners.

"After the match," Bruno said at the post-match press conference with Pedro at his side, "I didn't even remember why we were angry at each other."

Morales put his hand on Bruno's shoulder and said, "This man is the best there ever was in wrestling. We will be friends forever." ☐

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Press Conference

(Continued from Page 25)

PETERS: Well, maybe. But what about the fact that Mr. Fuji threw salt in that title match? Especially in the first of the three falls, he threw salt in the eyes of both Jules and Jay. How can you call them

the champions once and for all, in that first fall Mr. Fuji pinned Jules Strongbow in a mere 38 seconds, a record time for a pinfall in any tag team title match as far as I know, and that alone should be proof enough

"Sure, sure, and Fuji threw salt in Rick Martel's eyes, and Fuji threw salt into Andre the Giant's eyes, and Fuji threw salt in Rick McGraw's eyes, and Fuji threw salt . . ."



Associate Editor Craig Peters accuses Albano of using salt for more than spicing his food.

champions after cheating like that?

ALBANO: What do you mean, how can I call them champions? They *are* champions, and that's all there is to it. The first fall that you are talking about, and of course you are referring to the

two-out-of-three falls championship match on television, the one which followed that Madison Square Garden debacle where the Strongbows cheated their way to the title, but the referee wisely held up the belts and called for a television match to determine

that these men are championship material, that they deserve to wear the belts, and that they will be champions for a long time to come!

SAKS: But Fuji threw salt in their eyes!

ALBANO: Sure, sure, and Fuji threw salt in Rick Martel's eyes, and Fuji threw salt in Andre the Giant's eyes, and Fuji threw salt in Rick McGraw's eyes, and Fuji threw salt in Steve Travis' eyes, and Fuji threw salt in everyone else's eyes, but do you think that he really did this all the times

that people say he did? Of course not, because if he did, the referee would catch him time and time again, and the referee has never stopped Mr. Fuji once because of throwing salt, and even the worst of referee's would be able to realize what was going on if it happened as often as people say it does, but it doesn't, and that's why the referee never catches him, and people only accuse Mr. Fuji of throwing salt because of their jealousy of his success and the success of Mr. Saito and the success I have in managing them to the championship.

APTER: But it seems to me that the only success you have is in sneak attacking Fuji and Saito's opponents from behind. What about the shot you gave Jay during that title match? After you hit him and knocked him out, you pulled Saito on top of him so the referee would think that Jay was pinned . . .

ALBANO: Lies, lies, all lies! I never did any such thing! You can go back and look at the tapes of the match, you'll see it didn't happen that way at all, and that the only wrong that was committed was that Jules and Jay were doing a lot of illegal doubleteaming and they were switching off without making the tag, and that is the only illegal tactics that were used by anyone in that match, and it is because of that the Strongbows lost, and because of that only; the Strongbows dug their own grave as far as the tag team belts were concerned, and if they want to hold hands and jump right in that's their own problem. Fuji and Saito are champions, and that's the bottom line. This interview is over. I don't want to say another word about it. □

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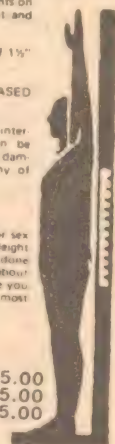
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Butch Reed

(Continued from Page 31)

Flair isn't only laughing at me; he's laughing at wrestling.

"The fans know I'm really champion. You should see my mail. I still get letters from fans telling me they're sick to their stomachs over this. They know I won the title. They can't understand either why I don't have the belt.

"This doesn't mean I'm giving up. Far from it. I'm going to make Flair pay for this. If it takes every last ounce of my strength, if it means the end of my career, I don't care. Somehow, someway, I'm going to beat Flair so bad that he can never show his face in an arena again. That's a promise I'm making to the fans, the sport, myself, and most especially Flair. The man is doomed."

If any man can accomplish this task, experts agree the man is Reed. He seems to have made a career out of defeating champions and ex-champions. His matches against Flair and former

champions Harley Race and Dory Funk Jr. are the stuff of Florida legend.

"Yeah," Butch admits, "I seem to wrestle better against guys who've held title belts. They are better wrestlers, and I guess I get up to their level. There's something about having been champion that seems to make a wrestler tougher and smarter. To beat him, you have to be tougher and smarter yourself.

"Hell, I don't believe in uncrowned champions. Either you have the belt or you don't. I know fans are calling me the uncrowned champion, and it's flattering, but it doesn't mean a bucket of spit. I can say I'm the uncrowned champion just to make Flair mad, and force him to give me another title match, but I don't fool myself into thinking that'll get me into the record books. Only an official title gets you into the record books."

Despite the controversy over official and unofficial titles, Reed

Reed positions Race for a devastating blow with his powerful right hand (below). Butch applies a sleeperhold on Flair early in the extension of their title match (opposite page). Though the hold weakened the champion and helped set up an eventual pin, the NWA title was ruled not to be on the line during the overtime.



is working his way into the record books without winning a major championship. His victories over the top men in wrestling have proven him to be one of the best athletes of his generation. His speed and power, along with a remarkable wrestling intelligence, promise to make him a man to be remembered by future generations.

"I'll be glad to be remembered," Reed says, "but I don't want it said that I was the best wrestler never to win the NWA belt. I'm not that interested in what they'll say about me when I'm gone. The only thing



that concerns me is what happens today and tomorrow. And that had better include the NWA belt."

Reed is an ambitious young man in a hurry to make good. He is learning his lessons the hard way. These nights, he spends studying the NWA rulebook. He won't be fooled again. The next time he wins a match against a champion, there will be no saving technicalities. He's ready to use his brains as well as his brawn.

"Flair is finished," Reed promises. "I'll beat him both inside and outside the ring. When he doesn't have any tricks left, he won't have the belt, either. That's a promise." ☐

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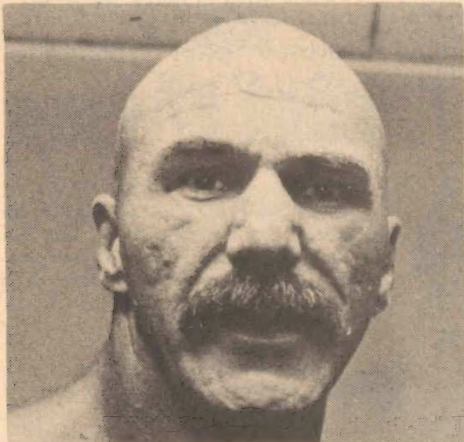
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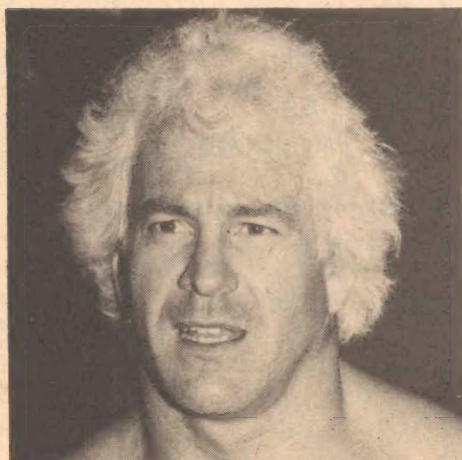
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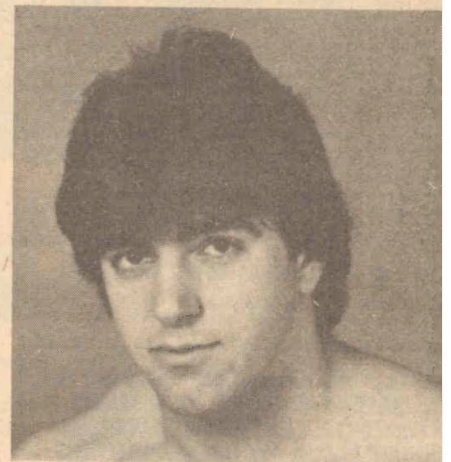
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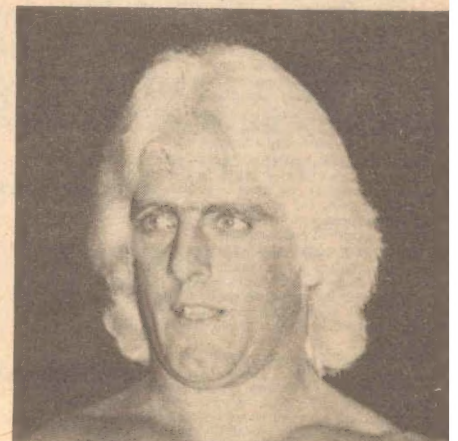
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• **ANDY DISSOLVES A GALLSTONE!**—Andy M. developed gallstones. When his illness became too troublesome to ignore, he went to a doctor. Urine tests revealed that he was chronically alkaline. His body was badly out of balance. Using this Witchcraft method to restore balance to the mind and body—in a short while, X-rays showed that he had no more gallstones! Andy never again suffered the excruciating pain of passing stones!

In the same way, say Gavin and Yvonne Frost, almost all illness can be prevented. You are actually employing an ancient Witchcraft method to remove diseased tissue! Even if you do not have any belief in the results, the power will work for you!

One woman, who had been in a wheelchair for 26 years, due to polio and arthritis, used the Witchcraft healing method, and reported that she had no pain and could walk and garden again! A man reported that his son's deep 3rd degree burns miraculously healed overnight!

• **SO SIMPLE A CHILD USES IT!**—A 4-year-old girl asked if she could try to heal a man who was limping—due to a torn ligament—with this simple Witchcraft healing method. In a matter of moments, she started her chant, laying her hands on the weak ankle. The man was miraculously cured! To skeptics, this should be convincing PROOF that anyone can use it!

AMAZING POWER CAN BE YOURS!

Whether you want infinite wealth, or just a comfortable new home, financial security, fine possessions, love, companionship, new health and vigor, power to control others, secret knowledge, protection from evil, or anything else, the magic power of Witchcraft can bring it to you quickly, easily and automatically! It's the easiest thing in the world!

• **HOW TO SEE INTO THE FUTURE!**—Would you like to be able to see the future? You CAN with the magic Black Mirror you'll see how to make on page 23. All you need is some ink and a bowl of water. Then use the chant on this page, and you will be able to see many things. One man uses it to read tomorrow's newspaper. YOU can use it to check the stock market or that important horse race!

• **MAKE TIME RUN BACKWARD OR FORWARD!**—A



MEET THE AUTHORS

GAVIN FROST, B.Sc., Ph.D., D.D., is Archbishop of the Church of Wicca, New Bern, North Carolina with national headquarters in Salem, Missouri, branches in several states and worldwide membership. He is Marshal of the Gold Star of England, with the right to wear the Saffron Robe and one of the very few Witches in the Western Hemisphere privileged to wear the authentic mark of initiation on his wrist. Although descended from a long line of mystics and scholars, and formerly a Vice-President and Director of International Operations for major aerospace companies, he prefers to be thought of as a humble teacher.

Mrs. YVONNE FROST, A.A., D.D., with her husband Gavin Frost, devotes her time to giving private instruction and publishing *Survival*, the newsletter of the Church of Wicca, of which she is a Bishop.

Articles by or about Gavin and Yvonne Frost have appeared in such national publications as *Midnight* and the *National Enquirer*.

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